

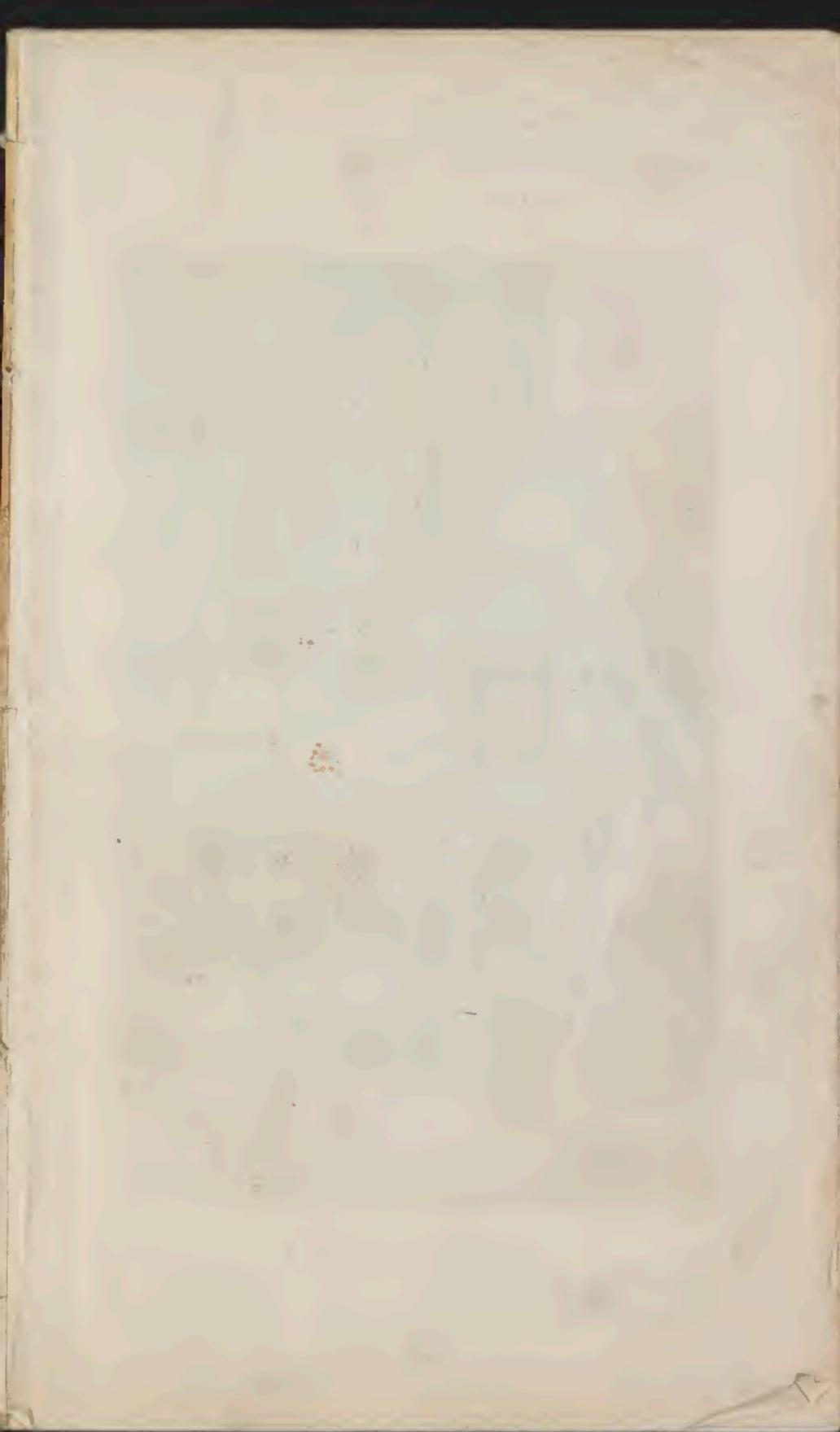
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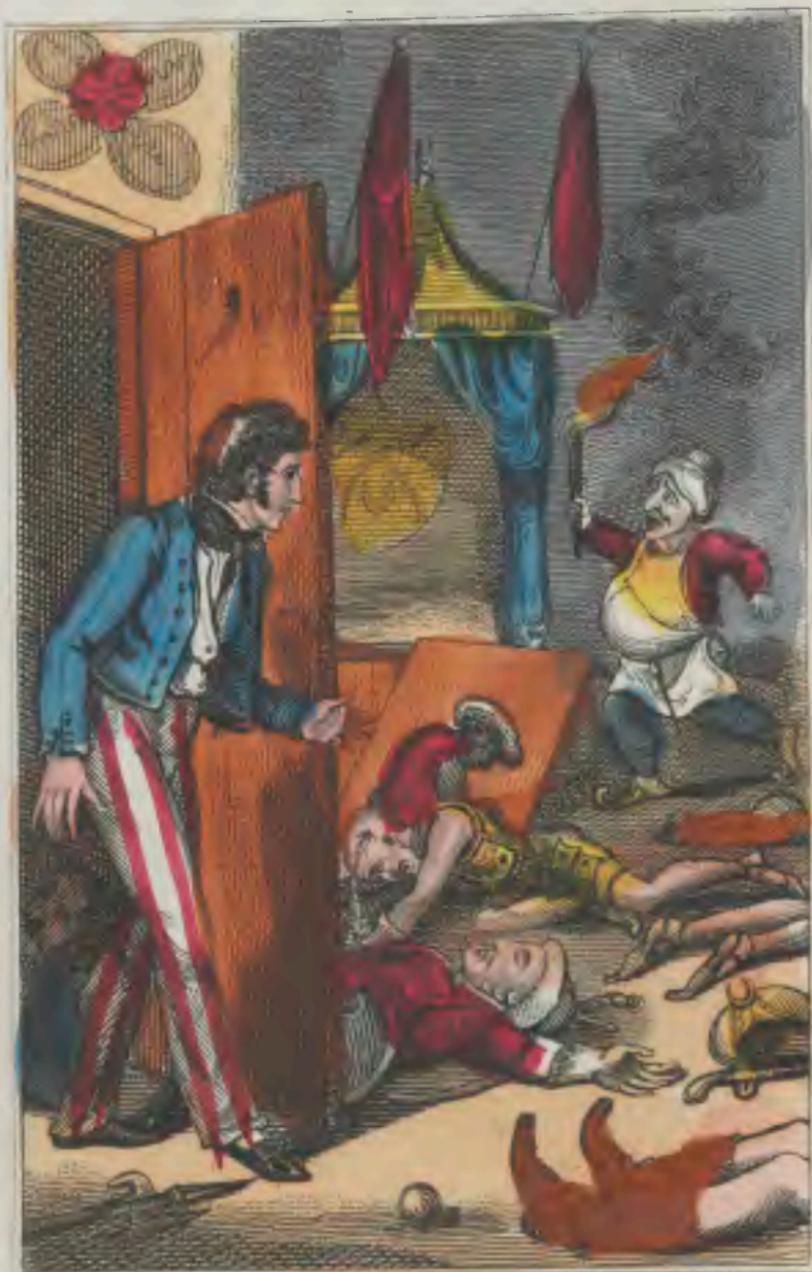
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Cruikshanks del.

Roberts sculp.

*The terror of the little fat Cook at the slaughter
among the Pirates.*

Vide Page 34.

THE
SURPRISING ADVENTURES
OF
HENRY TWISDON,

A Young Gentleman of Yorkshire;

CONTAINING A NARRATIVE OF

*The Perilous State of the Vessel in which he was embarked,
and its subsequent*

CAPTURE BY PIRATES;

THE HORRID PROCEEDINGS ON BOARD THE CORSAIR;

HIS ARRIVAL AT

An astonishing Cavern in Africa, wherein a most dreadful
Battle was fought;

HIS PROVIDENTIAL ESCAPE,

By Means of a Subterraneous Passage;

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HIS SAFE ARRIVAL IN ENGLAND, &c. &c.

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agreeable to the imagination! I'll nail thee down so firmly, that thou
shalt not move an inch until thou hast finished the perusal.

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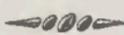
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THE
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OF
HENRY TWISDON.



My birth was attended with a direful omen; for I came into the world a murderer, my mother having perished in bringing me forth. My father, who was a man of small, independent fortune, early superintended the care of my education; and as he himself had, in his youthful days, been instructed by the best classical masters, he soon made me a proficient in the liberal studies. But, alas! I had hardly gained my eighteenth year, before he dropped from this life, leaving me possessed of all he had. By the advice of my uncle, a captain of a merchant's ship, I converted my estate into ready money, and purchased therewith a vast quantity of merchandize, intending to take a voyage with that relation, in order to traffic.

We set sail from Bristol, in the ship *Perseverance*; but were obliged to wait at King's-road nearly a fortnight, owing to the ship's bottom being damaged. By this ill luck, we missed the fleet from London, under whose convoy we should otherwise have sailed. To avoid prolixity, suffice it to say, the first few weeks of our voyage was extremely pleasant. This gave us hopes only to be disappointed; for scarcely had we passed the straits of Gibraltar, when a storm began to threaten. It kept off, however, during the day, but no sooner had I betaken myself to my hammock, than I found the ship rolling in a fearful manner. I descended from my ham-

mock as well as I was able; but scarcely had I put my foot to the floor, when I was shaken from one side of the cabin to the other. With great difficulty, I at length ascended the ladder, which brought me on deck. I had but just clung hold of a cable, to save myself from falling, when a wave approached, in form like a mass of dismal light. It washed over the deck, laying the ship on her beam-ends, and almost thrusting us from our holds. A sailor by name Jack Bobstay, fell from the main-mast close by my side, and, before I could recognise whether he was dead or alive, he was washed into his watery home by another tremendous sea of water, which swept off two more unfortunate beings, who had just left their holds in order to descend into the cabin. The roaring of the storm drowned all the clamours of our anxious crew. The rain descended in torrents; the wind bellowed hideously; the skies were obscured by a pitchy darkness; the waves alone reflected a deadly light. The situation of the ship's crew was every now and then discovered by a hideous flash of lightning, which illuminated the whole horizon, and which seemed to rend the bowels of the atmosphere to gain egress. This was an awful sight; the heavens seemed to gape asunder, and belch out their igneous sheets. The thunder's roaring artillery rumbled through the regions of the atmosphere, piercing our very entrails with terror, and sounding to our awe-struck souls like the death-words of the Omnipotent. Every wave which washed over us, swept some poor soul away. One was thrown against me, but was carried off again before I could assist him; he, however, was afterwards thrown against the gangway, which he clung hold of, and was thus saved. In this dreadful state were we tossed about for several hours, one moment hurled on the summit of a lofty wave, the next, sluicing into a watery valley. The ship now received such a shock, that I was jerked from my hold, but managed to seize, though not without the greatest difficulty, something else to support myself by. The murmur ran from one to the other, that the ship had struck upon a rock, was split, and fast filling with water. I now thought death inevitable; I recommended my soul to God, and prepared to suffer death with resignation. My fears, however, gradually subsided as the storm grew calmer.

As the morning began to dawn, we were enabled to discern the situation of one another. The first person I enquired after was my uncle. To my joy, I learnt he was in safety. The storm gradually abated; we were enabled to pace the ship in safety; joy brightened every countenance; some were seen shaking hands, and congratulating one another on their safety; others were on their bended knees, offering up thanksgiving to the Almighty; and I was in the act of descending into the cabin, when a sailor hastily ascended the steerage steps, exclaiming, 'She has sprung a leak! O! God Almighty! the ship is half full of water!' You may imagine the state of my feelings at this news. My uncle, however, exhorted his sailors not to give way to despair, but to ply the pumps as manfully as they were able. Some were sent to discover the leak; whilst others were pumping by turns; but it was of no avail, the water gained upon us more and more. The captain declared the ship would sink in half an hour. At this every one deserted his post; some thought of the means of saving themselves; others ran about in frenzied madness; others seemed absorbed in prayer; and those who had staved the rum-punches, and intoxicated themselves with liquor, reeled about blaspheming most dreadfully, and defying death with the most horrid speeches. Amongst other passengers, was a young lady with her father, who employed themselves in prayer, resigning their souls to the will of God. Their fate, as will presently be shewn, was peculiarly shocking. The captain during this was preparing the long boat, intending to escape therein. No sooner was it lowered, than all those who were able jumped in. It was now full, when the captain pushed off, swearing no one else should enter, lest the boat should sink. In vain I called out to him to save me from certain death; in vain I called to his mind the proximity of our blood; he either did not hear me, or shut his ears purposely, as I received no answer. The persons thus left behind, were the old gentleman and his daughter, seven common sailors, and myself. I urged, as the best thing we could do, to take up the boards of the deck, and construct a raft. To this they agreed; we therefore very expeditiously set about procuring tools. In hunting after these instruments, I accidentally found

a syphon, made for the purpose of drawing off spirituous liquors. I was instantaneously struck with the thought of discharging the water in the ship by means of this instrument. I ran to the rest and informed them of my design. At first they could not comprehend my meaning; but they soon came into it. Two sailors were sent to see if they could find any more syphons, whilst myself and the rest went to discover to what height the water had arisen. We found to our great happiness, that the hold was hardly full; we therefore bored a hole about two feet below the height of the water, and through it placed the syphon; then one of the sailors descended to the outside of the ship, turned the cock, and we had the inexpressible pleasure of seeing the water flow out in the most abundant quantity. Five more syphons were found, which we used in the same manner; so that in about half an hour, the water had evidently fallen four inches. This raised the sailors spirits to such a height, that they hugged, kissed, and shook my hands with extreme fervour, calling me their deliverer, swearing I should be their captain, and declaring they would follow me all over the world. It was not long before we discovered the leak, which we stopped immediately.

As I had acquired some little knowledge of navigation, I was not wholly ignorant of the art of managing our ship, so that we held out the most sanguine hopes of escape. From our observations, we discovered ourselves to be about one hundred and twenty leagues from Tangiers, whither we bent our course; but we had not sailed far before we perceived a ship at some distance behind us, and by the assistance of our glasses, found it to be a Barbary corsair. We knew what sort of reception we should meet with, did we fall into their hands; we therefore were about to clear the decks, with intent to set the guns ready for an engagement, but how great was our vexation, when we found they had been all thrown overboard, (except a swivel) in order to lighten the ship. What was to be done? As we were deficient in strength, the only method for defeating our enemies, was by cunning. We all concerted divers plans; amongst the rest, a sailor recommended us to conceal ourselves below deck, that they, seeing a ship of such magnitude without sailors, might conclude it to

be deserted, and would consequently not take so much precaution in boarding it. When we found they had gained footing on the ship, we were then to sally out sword in hand, and do our best. As this seemed plausible, we all consented. The ship was left to go at random, and we prepared ourselves in the manner aforesaid. From the cabin-windows, we could perceive the manœuvres of the African sailors. It appeared they were suspicious that all was not right, as they made every preparation for an engagement. When they came near us they fired a gun; but receiving no answer, they threw out their grappling-irons, and half of them boarded us, but with extreme caution. It would have been imprudent for us to have rushed out at this instant, we therefore retreated into the cock-pit, intending to surprise them when they should be scattered about the ship in different parties; but the door was quickly burst open by five fierce looking fellows, who started back at the sight of us, armed as we were. One of them fired a pistol, upon which the room was filled with his companions, who had dispersed themselves about the ship to the number of sixty. In spite of our endeavours, they quickly secured us, tied our hands and feet together, and dragged us upon deck.

Let me now mention something concerning the old gentleman and his daughter. The young lady's Christian name was Constantia; she had been in fits ever since she understood that the pirates were near. The poor father watched over her with the fondest affection; his tender heart almost bursting with grief, he seemed alive only to her sufferings. On being informed we were about to be attacked, he cried, "The will of God be done. Oh! my daughter, the support of my infirm years, it is for you these tears flow; I care not for myself, I have run my course. Oh heavens! spare my daughter from the hands of these ruffians; let this be the last request of my grey hairs." They were in the passengers' cabin, when a body of these merciless wretches burst in upon them. The old man was bound, and dragged with a rope on deck. They were going to act in like manner with his insensible daughter, had there not been one amongst them who offered to carry her on his shoulders. This, the others, purely to save

themselves the trouble, complied with. When we were all on deck, they ranged us in a row, and placed a person over each as guard. As Constantia could not move, they laid her along upon two gun-carriages. In this posture were we situated, when a tall man, with a dark visage, and a pair of monstrous mustachios, stepped on board. His appearance led me to suspect he was the captain, and my conjecture proved correct. He regarded us all by turns, and as he passed each, made some remark concerning us to one of his officers. On beholding the beautiful Constantia, he seemed to regard her with more than common attention. He turned round to the person who accompanied him, and held a conversation for some time. He then beckoned to a sailor, who, by his command, raised the reviving Constantia in his arms, and was bearing her away, when she cried, "My father! my father!" The poor old man had exhibited the most touching anxiety during the time of these proceedings, but when he heard his child call out to him, nature lent him strength to break from his guards; he flew to her, clasped her in his embrace, and wept over her like a child. The workings of the captain's sun-burnt visage too plainly indicated what was passing in his mind. I could plainly perceive, that the stare with which he had regarded her was libidinous; a sort of savage joy played upon his countenance at the sight of her recovery; but no sooner did he see the poor old father embracing his daughter than jealousy rushed into his eyes. He ran towards them, caught hold of the father's silver hair, and endeavoured to drag them asunder. "Wretch!" cried the old man, weeping, "you cannot part me from this last remains of comfort, without also parting me from life; I defy thy savage power." But the captain understood him not, by the reason of the distracted father, in his forgetfulness, having addressed him in English. As Constantia revived, she stared about her in wild dismay. The well-known face of her beloved parent was bathed in tears; his reverend hair was wound round the hand of a savage. She shrieked, and fell on his bosom! He clasped her still closer. This raised the barbarian's passion to the highest pitch. He imagined (as I afterwards learnt) that the father was Constantia's lover. He drew his sabre, and plunged it into the heart of his supposed

rival, uttering at the same time something in his own language expressive of his indignation. The other raised his head, looked pitcously at his daughter, groaned, and expired. The monster drew his reeking weapon from the wound, and, as he replaced it in the scabbard, he grinned most hideously, and directly ordered that Constantia should be removed. This injunction was obeyed; and, after giving other commands relative (as I imagined by his actions) to our confinement, he, with several others, descended into the cabin. We were forthwith conducted into the other ship loaded with irons, and thrown into the hold, where there were nearly twenty others, who, from their language, I suspected must be Spaniards. This, in fact, was the case. They were the crew of a small Mediterranean trading vessel, which this pirate had captured. I was no sooner extended in my destined place, and chained to the ground, than the prisoner next to me put his mouth close to my ear, and exclaimed, in a gruff voice, "*Parlez vous François?*" "*Oui,*" replied I; "*je le parle un peu.*" Upon this, he fumbled about for my hand, for see it he could not, there being no more light than what was admitted through the trap door. My hand quickly came in contact with another of gigantic size, and as tough as cork. It was also greatly besmeared with pitch and tar, insomuch, that my hand stuck so tightly to his that I could hardly disengage it. "*De quel pays etes vous?*" asked he. On answering, I was an Englishman, he again shook my hand, and we conversed, as nearly as I can remember, in the following manner—

"Was there any engagement with your ship? I only heard one gun fired." I gave him a brief account of every thing which had befallen us since the storm. I asked him what command he held in his ship. He answered, he was the pilot. He then favoured me with a brief relation of the capture of his vessel, after an hour's engagement. The ship he said, was so cut up, that the corsairs did not think it worth the trouble of bringing with them, they therefore unloaded it of every thing valuable, and sunk it, carrying the crew into slavery; and here, proceeded he, have we been this fortnight; our daily allowance being two hard biscuits, and about three quarters of a pint of water. We are had up three hours every day to do work in the ship,

but always in chains. When we are called up to labour, two or three villainous fellows are employed in laying a rope's-end about our shoulders, to teach us subjection, because the more tractable a slave is the better price he will fetch.

In this part of his information, we were suddenly interrupted by the sound of a bell. "Oh God!" said my fellow prisoner, "there's the summons." Immediately twenty fierce looking fellows descended with a torch of resinous wood in one hand, and a cable-end in the other. We received each a dozen stripes by way of discipline, after which we were unchained from the floor, and driven before them up to the deck, where we were ranged all in a row; and, at a sign made by their commander, trotted after him all round the ship nearly forty times. This was done to exercise, and keep us in good health. When the leader had run himself out of breath, he made a sign for us to halt. A grave looking fellow with a rough skin, who I understood was a sort of doctor, then reviewed us by turns, feeling our pulses, and pulling our tongues out of our mouths that he might examine their appearance. After this, he said something to our commander, who forthwith trotted us down again into our black hole. We remained in this our unpleasant situation for the space of three or four hours; at the end of which the trap-door re-opened, and the same set of grim-looking fellows, who had visited us before, descended, unchained us, gave us a few more stripes, and made us follow them. The first person we met on deck was the captain, who, on seeing me, took hold of my shoulder, and leading me from the rest, spoke something to me in his own language. Finding I did not understand him, he asked me in French whether I talked that language. On answering affirmatively, he said, that, as he liked my looks, he should employ me about him as his servant, he having long been in want of a young, nimble European, to execute his orders. This pill was far from being bitter, as the reader may well conjecture, when it is compared to the lot which I should otherwise have been obliged to suffer.

He had hardly given me the above information, when Constantia ran upon deck, with dishevelled hair and frantic looks, exclaiming, "Father! father! my dearest

father! speak—answer—where are you?" They had unfortunately neglected to conceal his body; it lay exposed to view, a pallid corpse. Some irreverent foot had kicked it against the gangway. Its eyes were fixed, its jaw dropped, and its garments all besmeared with crimson. The gaping wound which had propelled its flood, was clogged with blood congealed. Constantia no sooner beheld this prostrate corpse, than she stooped to examine it with horrid doubt. "Can this be my father?" cried she; "Oh God! those features! Ah heaven! 'tis my father! Dead! what dead! Oh no! he looks at me! Those eyes! Father, dearest father! answer me, for God's sake! 'Tis Constantia calls. But, alas! his body feels cold! A bloody wound! Ha! he is murdered! Stare not so, my dearest father! I did not do it. But, alas! he is dead—I am speaking to a corpse—I dream—I rave—I am mad! Water! water!—Oh!" Thus saying, she clung hold of the inanimate body with such a convulsive grasp that the efforts of the ferocious captain to disunite them proved ineffectual. The more the brute endeavoured to tear them asunder, the faster did she cling, defying his power, with frantic exclamations, and soliciting him to put an end to her miserable existence, that she might meet her father where happiness ever centered. The captain understood not what she said, but the resolute embrace in which she retained her father's body stirred up his despotic anger. He could not bear to think that his mighty strength should be overcome by a girl. His boiling blood swelled every feature in his countenance; the guilty weapon, stained with a father's slaughter, was suddenly unsheathed, and as suddenly sheathed again in the breast of Constantia. She raised herself on one hand, endeavoured to speak, but failed in the effort; she fell, and expired!

The monster no sooner saw the former beautiful frame inanimate, than he started back, and stared as though awakened from a vision. His uncontrolled passions had evidently hurried him on to an action for which he now felt remorse. After having regarded the body for some time, he stamped about the deck in petulant anger, seemingly enraged at having robbed himself of a female whom he intended to have reserved for his brutal

lust. He advanced to a group of ill-looking fellows who were picking oakum, and conversed with them seemingly respecting the deed he had committed, as he pointed to the body several times. One of them gave him some information which seemed to boil his blood afresh. An officer was dispatched, who quickly brought up a trembling victim. This poor fellow, as I afterwards understood, was the guard who had suffered Constantia to escape. In vain did he uplift his hands and eyes for mercy,—in vain did he declare, in the most pathetic language, that her having escaped from the cabin was unconnived at by him; her having escaped was alone sufficient. Justice never entered the captain's thoughts. With one hand he seized him by the hair, and with the other plunged the murderous blade into his entrails. The poor-fellow was a long time in expiring, which the captain perceiving, ordered two of his sailors to tie a stone round his neck, and throw him overboard. But as he was falling from the ship, the stone slipped from the noose. He used his utmost endeavours to support himself from sinking. He appeared to be a good swimmer, and after a most astonishing effort, succeeded in seizing hold of a rope which hung from the ship's side down into the water. As he was raising himself by the assistance of this rope, the inhuman captain fired a pistol in his face. The bullet sped between his eyes. A ghastly vacuity was hardly perceptible before he fell into a watery grave, his deadly winding-sheet a curling wave.

Soon after this, the captain left the deck, and we prisoners resumed our occupation. A poor martyr to the leprosy was employed in chopping wood, and beguiling the employment by singing his paternoster in metrical cadence with each stroke. This made the unlucky fellow too conspicuous to escape the notice of our guards. One of them in consequence applied a cable-end to his shoulders without ceasing, in hopes of stopping his tongue; but without effect, as it caused the poor enthusiast to chant with double fervour. He had now been under the continual lash for half an hour, when, being no longer able to endure it, he fell, but parted not with his song, until the multiplication of stripes caused him to faint, after which he was carried off, and I never saw

nor heard any thing of him afterwards. The captain soon reappeared, looking as composed and innoent as one who knew not what sin was. He walked up to me, desired I would leave off work, and made me converse with him, relating to my country and affairs. I felt an indescribable dread during the whole of this *tête-a-tête*, and I think the eaptain must have observed it, as my teeth chattered together in such a manner as at times to interrupt me in the thread of my discourse. He was very curious in enquiring what my former circumstances had been, and the cause of the ship's disorder: concerning all which I gave a faithful narration. He seemed to pay particuar attention to the misfortunes which had befallen us during our voyage; and at the story of Constantia and her father, which I took care to paint in touching language, he exelaim'd "Father! did you say? I thought he had been an old dotard of a lover; I thought he had been a bar which stood between me and my happiness; otherwise I should not have killed him. But the thing his done—the thing his done; so no more on't. I am in want of a slave; you are the youngest European I have in my possession, and if you serve me with fidelity, I shall not be slow in making you a recompense."

I had not been in the ship three days, before I observed that frequent councils where held in the cabin, composed of the eaptain (whose name was Duval), ten of his principl officers, and the old French surgeon, who, as I just now told you, examined the prisoners. There seemed to be a vast deal of mystery in their proceedings, which I could not at all comprehend. No one was ever admitted during these debates. One of the officers was stationed at the door as a guard, and the ship's crew were not permitted to leave deck until their proceedings were over. They assembled an hour, or more every day; and every day it appeared something weighed heavier and heavier on their minds. Their countenanees wherc tinged with dark design; they had frequent conferences with one another, whenever they met on deck, or elsewhere; but they never spoke, unless in a low whisper. The whole erew seemed astonished at these proceedings; they talked a great deal concerning a govenor who was ill, but as I only understood a few of

their words, I could never comprehend the subject of their discourse. My curiosity was worked up to such a pitch, that I was determined to hide myself in the cabin before they assembled, and endeavour to dive into their secret. Accordingly, I watched my opportunity, and hid myself in a large locker which stood under the cabin-window. Here I remained a full half hour before they assembled, trembling with apprehension. At length, Duval, the surgeon, and nine of his officers, entered in a very mysterious manner. The tenth officer was placed at the door as usual, which was well barred and bolted. Now the key-hole of the locker, in which I was concealed had been cut away in such a manner as to exhibit a hole large enough for a man to put his fist through. By this means, I had a very fair view of what was passing. The captain conferred with the rest for some time, using the most vehement actions, but the purport of his discourse I never ascertained, as what followed precluded the necessity. After having conversed for some time Duval pulled from his breast a key, which he applied to a hole in the panneling of the cabin. He turned the key, and to my amazement let down a secret partition, and discovered a small room, or closet, from which issued several heart-rending groans. With one accord, they entered this closet, and drew forth a long wooden box, in shape like a coffin with its lid off. Sighs, groans, and faint exclamations, escaped from within. They placed it in the middle of the cabin on the floor, and stood round it in a circle. They then raised from it the body of an old man, half naked, and as livid as a corpse. Divers half-healed wounds appeared on his breasts and shoulders, his groans rent the air in a feeble though touching manner. Having seated him, the captain drew from his breast a long roll of parchment, with a pen and ink. Now the conversation which followed, I had from the mouth of the old French surgeon, as will presently be seen, I became somewhat familiar, and who, at my request, translated every thing word for word. "Earthly devil!" cried Duval to the old man, "will you sign the articles of renunciation?" "No," replied the other in a weak accent, "never! Tear me to pieces, if you choose, but never will I sign the renunciation. Oh! my faithful band! did you but know what your commander suffers——" "Will you sign

this?" interrupted Duval, foaming with rage. On the old man replying, "No, never!" the other desired that the pincers should be heated; "and then we'll see what torture can effect." The surgeon placed the pincers in the fire, and the poor old man rolled his eyes about in the most anxious apprehension. "Oh Mahomet!" cried he, "deliver me from the hands of these murderers. Shall I give up my command? No: I am inspired with enthusiasm. I will die under their hands sooner. Wretches! I defy you. There's my breast, plunge in your daggers, and in the wounds, pour down your boiling lead! maim me piecemeal! tear out my eyes! scoop out my heart! tear off my skin which shields my wretched body! do what you will, I am still a man, and act as such I will, till death declares me inanimate. Ah! grin, threaten, and curse your bellyfull, firm will I remain to the last hour of my existence!" The pincers being heated, one seized hold of his head, another his arms, and a third his legs, whilst the captain, with deadly fury, inclosed one of his fingers in the groove of the pincers, and gradually burnt all the flesh off, at the same time interrogating the poor object as to the yielding of his consent to abdicate. But the other, with most unconquerable obstinacy, gave answers in the negative; and bore the tortures with which he was afflicted with the utmost fortitude, continually addressing himself to his prophet Mahomet. After having burnt all the flesh off his finger, they knocked off the bare bone, which was sticking out, and the surgeon applied a plaster to the bleeding stump. His hand was then bound up, and he was forthwith chained down to the coffin as before. After this, Duval placed a small pitcher of water near his head, with a few biscuits, and told him, if he did not consent by that time next day, one of his ears should be singed off. The poor sufferer uttered not a word, but seemed to be absorbed in silent prayer. He was removed into the closet as before, and the assembly broke up. As soon as I saw that every thing was safe, I got from my hiding place, and went about the commands which my master had given me in the morning. I was, however, very uneasy the whole of the day; the figure of the tortured sufferer being constantly before my imagination. I was at a loss to divine the meaning of what I had seen; I dreaded to drop any hints,

lest I should be suspected, in which case I well knew my life was not worth a straw.

At about eleven o'clock the same evening, whilst I was musing in my hammock on the dreadful occurrences to which I had that day been a witness, I heard two or three distant shrieks, which I supposed must proceed from the other ship, which I conjectured could not be far off. This was followed by the discharge of a pistol, and a confused noise of voices in our ship. The clamours at length increased to such a degree, that I started up, threw on my clothes, and ran on deck. Here all was confusion; the surgeon, to whom I addressed myself, informed me, that one of the English prisoners had escaped into the other ship, by some means unknown, had made a leak in its hold, the consequence of which was, that the ship was filling with water. I instantly conjectured, that the sailor had re-opened the leak, which I had stopped, out of revenge. I considered a short time as to the course I should pursue, and at length determined upon saving the ship, by the same means which I had formerly made use of. I ran to Duval, and told him, I was acquainted with a method which would save the ship. "If you can rescue it from destruction," said he, "I will make you a present of a diamond ring of great value; 'tis a stone of the finest water and which formerly decorated the finger of Harry the Fourth of France."

I was shortly placed in the other ship, and by exerting myself, as on a former occasion, in three hours every thing was quiet; and I was possessed of the diamond ring, on the value and beauty of which the captain had paid such an eulogium. I was no connoisseur in precious stones, 'tis true, but were I to judge of the beauty of this from others which I had before seen, I should have felt myself very little 'contented with the reward of my labour.

That night every thing went on as usual in the ship; I however made it my business to enquire about the sailor who had occasioned the disaster; but, to my concern, I learnt, that Duval had ordered him to be shot, and throwu into the sea. I forbear particularizing the

many encomiums I received for saving the ship from sinking; suffice it to say, I was so heavily laden with them that I found myself labouring under a burthen. It had evidently raised me a vast number of degrees in Duval's estimation. He shook me by the hand! a favour which all the crew envied.

Next morning, about half an hour before the captain was accustomed to convene his council, I crept into the locker, and saw them all assemble as before. The old man was drawn out, and the captain endeavoured to make him sign the abdication; but he being still obstinate, a large iron was made red hot, and, after being well secured, one of his ears was seared off. During this dreadful operation, the old man's eyes seemed starting out of his head; he accidentally directed them towards the locker; I thought he perceived me; I shrunk with fear; my heart propelled its flood with ten times its natural impetuosity; my breathing became hard, and I lay with my face against the bottom of the locker, till the operation was over, fearing every moment lest the attention of the barbarians might be directed towards my hiding-place. No sooner was I led to conclude that the cabin was clear, than I raised my head, and perceived they had all departed, except the old surgeon, who was occupying himself in putting up his plasters. He happening, unluckily, to be in want of a knife to scrape some salve, and having looked all over the cabin to no purpose, at last came to the individual locker in which I was stationed. He raised the lid, and, on beholding me, started back in astonishment. My fright entirely deprived me of utterance. It was well I happened to be in a recumbent position, for I am confident I could not otherwise have stood. "*Oh diable!*" cried he "*est-ce vous?*" I soon regained my presence of mind, and with it my speech. I jumped up, seized his knees, and begged, in the most abject manner, that he would hide this discovery from the captain. He treated me very coolly; and said in an ironical style, "It seems to me, that the shake of the hand and the diamond ring have caused you to disregard the admonitions of prudence. 'Tis but just that Duval should be made acquainted with the pernicious effects caused by his donations." Perceiving this speech to be the production of envy, I

answered, "The diamond ring is your's, if you will but conceal this discovery." "No," returned he, "the offence is unpardonable; you have dived into our secret, and the sacrifice of your life alone can expiate such dastardly conduct. But the diamond ring—in truth, I find nature strives to make me overlook your offence. What shall I do? I am in perplexity. Can I rely on your never divulging the secret. If you should, my life will be in as great danger as your's." I swore by every thing which could make an oath binding, that my breast should be a faithful depository. "Well then," resumed he, "I will mention nothing concerning it. But mind me—it is not for the sake of your diamond ring—'tis pure humanity that urges me. I shall accept the ring, since you have been so kind as to offer it to me, merely as a remembrance, and as the cement of a friendship which I begin to entertain for you." No sooner were my apprehensions calmed by the loss of my diamond ring, than I clasped hold of his hands, and thanked him in the most fervid manner.

From this time forward, we became more and more familiar. Although I entertained a most inveterate horror for the man, yet I saw it was my interest (maugre the attack of my conscience), instead of shewing my hatred, to cultivate his friendship, well considering, that my life was at the mercy of his discretion. Before the next hour of assembling, I gained so much in his confidence, that at my particular desire, he related the following story, which satisfied the craving curiosity I felt to have the mysteries I had been an eye-witness to unravelled.

"Xavier Duval, the captain of this ship, was born at a small village in the south of France. His father was an eminent farmer, and gave him an education suitable to one whom he intended to bring up in the same trade as himself. It was not long however, before, this anxious parent imagined he had discovered the true bent of his son's genius, he had proved himself to be an expert cow-doctor; and having frequently shewn his abilities in drenching, bleeding, and performing divers other operations on the cart-horses. Wherefore, by the advice of the parish-priest, he was placed with a chi-

urgion of ability, and, after the usual time, made himself an adept in his master's art. Having nothing to depend on but his profession, he was obliged to accept the situation of surgeon on board a merchant-ship, bound to China, In this same ship, I happened to be mate, and our dispositions being very much of the same cast, we formed a friendship, which lasted to the present period. During our voyage, we had to encounter with a dreadful tempest, which drove us on the coast of Madagascar. Here we were treated by the savages in such a hostile manner, that we were obliged to erect a battery on the shore, to defend us until the weather should become more favourable, and the ship's crew, who were much troubled with the scurvy, should be in a condition to depart. During this, we were put to a great stretch for water; we could not venture up the country for fear of the natives, who lay in ambush by thousands. The captain calculated that the water we had on board, would be consumed long before we reached our destination; and this determined him to make a grand sortee up the country, well armed, in search of some spring or river. Half of the ship's crew accompanied him, whilst the rest, amongst whom were Duval and myself, staid behind to guard our little fortification, and take care of the unhealthy part of the crew, which amounted at that time to nearly thirty men. The captain had not proceeded far, before he was surrounded by nearly five thousand of the natives, many of them armed with muskets, which they had purchased of Europeans. What could eighty men do against five thousand? Suffice it is to say, the captain, lieutenant, and twenty men, were killed on the spot, the rest were all taken prisoners, except one who fled on horseback, and brought us this piece of intelligence. We were all in the utmost confusion at receiving it; we had but fifty men who were in tolerable health, and the rest were so afflicted with the scurvy as to be unable to leave their hammocks. We, however, fortified ourselves in the best manner possible, by planting twenty of the ship's guns on our battery. We were once attacked, but the well-directed discharge of our cannon and musketry repulsed our assaulters with great loss on their side.

“ The command of the vessel should, by rights, have

devolved on the second lieutenant, but he was too ill to move from his bed. In the mean time, Duval seemed to be absorbed in thought; he was continually observed pacing about with his arms folded, and his eyes on the ground. He was evidently meditating some project; and, as I well knew the general bent of his disposition, I made no doubt he was inventing some stratagem for attaining to the command of the vessel. This was, in fact the case. He one morning drew me aside, and said to me, 'Le Page, my dear friend, we have always been united by the strictest ties of amity, and God grant that they may ever remain unsevered. I have a design in embryo; but you so well know the secret springs of my soul, that with a little reflection you may guess the subject on which I employ my thoughts. Give a guess now.' I immediately told him my ideas on the subject. 'Right, right,' returned he, 'nothing less. But tell me your resolution. Will you aid me in carrying on my project, or no?' I, of course consented; the mind of each being an exact counterpart. To avoid prolixity, suffice it to say, that the healthy part of the crew were, by advantageous promises, prevailed upon to enter into our conspiracy, whilst those who were laid up with the scurvy, were every one put to death by the order of Duval, that provisions might be saved, and the earliest opportunity of leaving the island be taken.

"Two days after the massacre of the invalids, a breeze sprung up; we weighed anchor, and directed our course to the East Indies. Here we exchanged our cargo to advantage; but on returning to Europe, we were obliged to anchor in a bay near Morocco, that we might repair the ship, which was much damaged. Here it was we got acquainted with an Algerine corsair, which had touched at that place. Now this Algerine vessel was commanded by a captain and a superior, who they denominated governor. It appeared the latter had taken a voyage for the purpose of ascertaining the geographical situation of some place which he designed to attack. Duval soon stood on a similar footing with this commander, who entertained us, through the medium of an interpreter, with a grand description of his dominion. He informed us he had sovereign power over three thousand individuals, who all dwelt in one immense ca-

vern, fashioned into innumerable rooms; that all his men were by profession pirates; that one half of them staid at home, whilst the other half went out in quest of plunder. He then endeavoured to give us a taste for his way of life, which he described in the most inviting colours possible; so much so, indeed, that Duval, on his earnest solicitation, consented to give up his ship to him, on condition, he should be made governor's captain. The governor consented to this, and well he might, for the ship and cargo were worth nearly ninety thousand pounds sterling. The crew, already abandoned, and fearful of detection, were readily drawn into the captain's determination; and they departed for the wonderous cave with anxious pleasure. Duval, however, would not yield up the ship before he had arrived at the destination, and seen on what footing he should be treated. We soon reached the tremendous cavern; a description of which I shall forbear giving, lest it should spoil the pleasure you will derive on first beholding it. As might be expected, great opposition was manifested amongst the inhabitants of the cave, at the sudden elevation of the stranger, Duval. Envy was continually conspiring against him, and any man weaker than he must have fallen. But the manner in which he conducted himself, inspired them with awe, and he had such a peculiar facility of invention as to turn all the plots laid against him on the projectors themselves. By great industry, he has gained the good-will of half the band, who are consequently called Duval's party; the rest are denominated Sidi's, the name of the other captain. Here let me mention, that the two head captains were next in power to the governor himself. Duval has been in command nearly ten years, and it has always been a point of dispute, whether Sidi or he should be invested with supreme sway, in case of the governor's death. According to a small code of laws which they have established for their convenience, the governor is to appoint a successor. This was enacted with a view of his selecting one who had acted with the greatest propriety, as such a one would be most proper to govern. Now it has always been Duval's ambition to command in case of the governor's death, but on account of a seeming preference paid by our chief to Sidi, most have imagined that the latter will be their future master.

The governor, who is now growing old, finding every year most perceptibly promoting the decay of his mortal frame, was resolved, while nature lent him vigour, to visit his aged relations, a sister and a brother, whom he had not heard of for twenty years. He therefore signified his intention to the band, who concurred in assenting to this proposal. He accordingly embarked about three months ago, in feeble health, and as Sidi was just come home from a voyage, Duval was deputed to the command of the vessel. We arrived at the destined spot three weeks afterwards, where our chief sojourned a short time, and again embarked, intending to return home. In directing our course thither, we met with you.

“Now, during our passage, the governor was seized with a febrile illness, which confined him to his hammock, and, whilst thus afflicted, Duval communicated to me his design of forcing the invalid to sign the renunciation of his power in his (Duval's) favour. This he endeavoured to effect by first requesting, next persuading, and lastly by threatening. Finding this was of no avail, he confined him in the closet, from whence you saw him drawn (unknown to any but the ten captains and myself, who are leagued in the conspiracy). As threatening would not further the project, we came to a resolution of using torture. I actually fear the captain will be obliged to forge the renunciation himself, as I am fully confident the patient cannot survive forty-eight hours. I have been advising Duval to threaten he will pour a ladle full of melted lead down the old fellow's throat; for if any thing will bring the obstinate devil to compliance, that must. This experiment will be tried in about an hour's time, wherefore, if you have any inclination to behold the transaction, you have but to post yourself as usual in the locker, and your curiosity will be gratified.”

After this fiend incarnate had thus finished, I used all the persuasion I could, with safety, to endeavour to detach him from the dreadful design in meditation, but to no purpose; he gloried in it. “I shall be second in command,” cried he, “and if Duval dies before me (which is very probable, by reason of his bad habit of body), I shall without doubt be governor.”

Reader! you may be apt to think me very unfeeling in secreting myself again to see this horrid transaction, but curiosity is such an essential principle in my nature, that it is almost impossible for me to withstand its impulse. Lest a recapitulation of former events should disgust rather than amuse, suffice it to say, the governor was drawn from his prison as before, and a ladle-full of melted lead threatened to be poured down his throat, if he did not sign the abdication. The poor old man, already wasted to the bone, and writhing under the agonies of his former wounds, beseeched them, with all the pathos which nature lent him, to finish at once his miserable existence. "Yes," answered the captain, "you shall have your wish complied with. This is your last hour, unless you sign the renunciation. This melted lead shall work its passage down to your very entrails, burning your damned guts by inches! hoiling up your frothing blood—bursting its vessels—tearing and consuming every fibre in your frame, and finally expelling that vital spark, which will fly for refuge to the devil! So, sign, or die!" This speech, which Duval uttered with emphasis, turned the resolution of the agonized patient. The deadly liquid was already near his lips, the drossy odour already assailed his nostrils, the red hot ladle already emanated it's scorching heat, when, with a trembling voice, he cried, "I'll sign." Do it then!" roared the captain with a grin of satisfaction, produced by so unexpected a compliance. The governor, after several fruitless efforts, signed his abdication. This was no sooner done, than Duval seized hold of it, thrust it in his bosom, and ordered the lead to be poured down his victim's throat, lest he should ever betray him. the dreadful sentence was executed by the surgeon with seeming heartfelt gratification. The governor exhibited the most horrid spectacle that can be conceived. His face became as black as ink; his fiery eyes seemed to be bursting from their sockets; the muscles of every feature were contracted in a most distorted manner; his body underwent several violent contortions; and he at length sunk a lifeless corpse amidst a burst of exultation from his direful murderers.

Thus died the poor old man, the victim of a wretch's ambition; who forthwith gave orders that the body

should be secretly washed, and laid out as though he had died a natural death.

When the crew were informed that their chief had expired in a convulsion, divers reports were circulated, but no one spoke his opinion openly, though I am much led to suspect, that they believed Duval to have murdered him. However this may be, the body was next day committed to a watery grave, amidst the wailings of his murderers; and, indeed their grief was so well counterfeited, that I should infallibly have been deceived, had I not been an eye-witness of the transaction.

About three days after this, we espied a vast range of cliff, which stretched itself to the right and left, as far as the eye could reach. In the evening, we came to an anchor in a small bay, formed by the projection of two cliffs, vying in height with those of Dover. As I understood that the piratical habitation was not far off, I made my enquiries of the surgeon. He desired me to remark the natural division of one of the rocks, a little to the right. I plainly perceived what he mentioned, but, on account of the sinuosity of its windings, I could not see the termination of it. This passage, I was informed, led to the cave. Thither the captain sent a boat full of men to apprise the inhabitants of our arrival. After the lapse of about twenty minutes, I beheld several boats, filled with soldiers, rowing from the passage. These were followed by a large flat bottomed boat, big enough to contain several hundred individuals. It was towed along by the boats which preceded it. Duval ordered half of the crew to enter, amongst whom, he was the first, the surgeon next, and myself the third. He gave us strict injunctions not to make mention of the governor's death, until he had seated himself on the chair of supremacy. As we proceeded along the strait, I observed, that, at the side of each cliff, was hewn a path, whereon was stationed a guard at every forty or fifty yards distance. They were dressed in a Turkish uniform, and, as we passed, stood on the ledge of the path, and bowed their heads in token of obeisance. This had a terrific look, as the path was full forty feet above our heads. We proceeded along this strait for

about ten minutes, when, on a sudden turn to our left, I beheld a building, the singularity of which struck me with wonder. From one cliff to the other was stretched an arch, level with the path before-mentioned. This arch was surmounted with a vast pile of building, fabricated with masses of rock, according not a little with fifty mutilated windows, the frames of which were filled with parchment, perforated in a thousand places. Exactly in the centre were two folding doors, of immense size and height, from whence a wide flight of steps descended lower than the sea. I was at a loss at first to divine the reason of their raising this pile so high, but on considering it was then low water, my difficulty was solved. At our approach, every window in the building was thrown open, and filled with turbanned physiognomies. The steps likewise on each side were lined with armed guards, shouting in chorus a sort of triumphal song, which was accompanied by the solemn roll of two kettle-drums. Duval disembarked first, with a firm step and resolute countenance. As he passed up, followed by us all, the guards bowed down their heads to the ground; but I remarked a sort of mixture of astonishment and distrust painted in their countenances, occasioned, as I concluded, by the absence of the governor. No sooner had he reached the folding-gates, than the song ceased; and the guards huddled themselves together in close consultation. Having entered the gate, we passed through a long room, on the right of which was ranged a vast quantity of cordage, two or three old fishing-boats, several planks, pieces of masts, broken rudders, rusty anchors, tar barrels, &c. On the left, were piled a great many cannon of different caliber, old muskets, swords, pikes, and other instruments of warfare. The next room we entered was evidently set aside for a dormitory, or sleeping chamber, as it was filled with long benches, on which were spread a sort of mat covered with a blanket. The next room proved to be a kitchen. On one side was a large fire; here two fat women was employed in roasting a sheep. The left side was also illumined by a fire, over which were suspended several cauldrons. A tall meagre woman, with a visage as smoke-dried as a Yorkshire ham, was occupied in stirring the contents of these vessels. Nearly twenty men, women and boys, most of them grotesque

figures, were scattered about the room, differently employed in preparing supper. A sort of superintendent walked about from one to the other, giving his orders with majestic authority. With respect to the person of this culinary despot, I am inclined to think that the gods had not been over serious when forming him. I am rather led to conjecture, that Momus, or some such comical deity, had been most instrumental in bringing him to perfection, it being a hard matter to look at him without unbridling your risible muscles. In stature he seemed to be about five feet one, and full that extent round the belly. The upper part of his face was decked with two large gummy eyes, the whites of which were proportionably more visible than the rest, his two little pupils being both directed, in a squinting direction, towards a nose of cylindrical shape, which, from its colour, shape, and consistence, I likened to a German sausage. His mouth was so wide and spreading, that it reminded one of the moon in its first quarter. His whole face was beautified with innumerable ruby-coloured excrescences, carnal gems, or according to a well known denomination, grog-blossoms. This whole mass of comical flesh was surmounted by a huge turban, from the sides of which hung a bushel of oily black hair, part of which hung over his shoulders. His whole dress was Turkish, but so bespotted with grease and fat, that its original colour was totally imperceptible. He held in his right hand a large knife, the motions of which were obeyed with as much promptitude as the battoon of a general, or the sceptre of a monarch. On our appearing, he thundered out a monosyllable, which was followed by a cessation of all employment on the part of his underlings. From the kitchen, we passed through a long passage, at the end of which was a door half open, from whence proceeded a confused buz of voices. I remarked that Duval hesitated before he entered; the blood rushed into his face; but, seeming to have suddenly been endued with resolution, he threw open the door, and burst in. The hall appeared immense; it was lighted at the sides by a vast number of torches, attached to the walls by iron sockets. At the end was placed a chair, raised on several steps. Before these stood a long table, at which were seated twenty or thirty pirates, with Sidi at their head. The table was

covered with bottles, and from the noise and gestures of the corsairs, it appeared they were, as we say in England, half seas over.

No sooner had we entered, than Duval, without speaking a word, advanced towards the chair of power, mounted it, and commanded Sidi and his companions, in a haughty tone, to pay their obeisance to their new governor. "What!" vociferated Sidi, "who is he, that dares call himself governor?" "I!" cried Duval; "the late governor being deceased, has appointed me to be his successor, as witness his will," drawing it from his bosom. "'Tis false! 'tis a lie!" cried the other, starting up, and snatching it from his hand. "Read it then, and be convinced," said Duval. Sidi held it to the light, but no sooner had his eyes met the late governor's signature than he tore the parchment in half, and mounting the table, addressed those around him in the following manner—

"My brave friends! 'tis true that what I have beheld was the governor's signature; I will not be base enough to deny it; but I affirm, it must have been enforced from him against his inclination, for I here swear solemnly, that the governor voluntarily made me his successor five years since; and I can produce the document which sets it forth. He signed it with his own hand, and gave it to me. And here it is (drawing the same from his bosom); I have always kept it in my bosom, fearing the machinations of that villain, Duval. If the governor is dead, I'll venture to say, that Duval murdered him." Here Duval interrupted him, by exclaiming, "I murdered him! where's your proofs? I—I—I never—that is he died a natural death." "'Tis false cried a voice from the crowd, "I saw you murder him—yes, I!" At this, I beheld one of the ten captains, who had abetted Duval, rise on the table. "Yes!" proceeded he, "you may wonder at seeing me a witness against you; but 'twas by the fear of death that made me consent to become a conspirator." Duval's cholera could no longer restrain itself, he drew his pistol from his belt, fired, and felled the traitor to the ground. By this time, every one was flocking to the hall; fifteen or sixteen hundred soon filled it.

I have before mentioned, there were two separate interests in this little state. The desire of Sidi's party was, that each man should have his share, and that the gang should be broken up. Duval's, which was by far the weakest of the two, was for continuing their piratical practices. Now when they had all seen the basis on which the above mentioned contest stood, each placed himself near the leader of the party he sided with, so that the two enemies stood face to face. Every one prepared his weapon, as it were instinctively. Sidi stood at the head of his party, and exclaimed, "Now is your time, my brave comrades——" But before he could proceed, Duval, with the fury of a maniac, attacked him sword in hand. Both parties followed the example of their leaders, and a general engagement ensued. During the confusion of the first onset, I retreated to the top of the room, where I found a door, which I put my shoulder to, and burst open, hoping, during the engagement, to make my escape, a project continually before my eyes. In this room, (which was set apart for keeping dried provisions) I remained, regarding what passed between the combatants, through the creek of the door, which I had placed a-jar for that purpose. The battle continued to rage with the utmost fury. Irregular discharges of musketry were kept up; but the generality of them fought man to man, shooting and cleaving one another without mercy. The firing, however, extinguished every torch in the room. All was darkness, all confusion! A discordant combination of clamours, shouts, groans, and firing filled the air, and inspired me with the utmost horror, whilst the smoke and smell of the gunpowder almost suffocated me. I rushed into the hall, where the battle continued with the most unexampled fury, until Sidi's band repulsed their enemies, who, with a fearful clamour, rushed out of the hall, their pursuers close in the rear, mangling them in a dreadful manner.

The clang of battle appeared every moment more distant, until at last, I could distinguish only a faint murmuring, interrupted now and then by the discharge of a musket. My eyes were riveted towards the end of the hall, being just able to perceive it, by means of a few torches, which lay burning on the ground, when, to my

no little surprise, I beheld the man cook (of whom I have before given a faithful description) bolt into the hall with a torch in his hand; (*see frontispiece*) his face exhibited marks of the most anxious terror; he bellowed and tore about like a wounded bull, every moment looking behind him as he proceeded, until he came to a door in a corner of the room. Having puffed and blowed, growled, and repeated what I conjectured to be a prayer, he put his hand in his bosom, and pulled out a key, which applied to the lock, and opened the door. I was instantly seized with the idea, that, if I could but pass the door, I should be enabled to make my escape. I therefore crept very slyly behind him, and suddenly rising up, extinguished his torch with a grasp of my hand. He immediately ran down a dark passage, with as much terror as if a whole army were at his heels. He had not proceeded far before I lost all traces of him; and I groped my way, until I saw light through the crevices of a door. I listened to hear if any one was within; but finding every thing silent, I placed my back against the door, and burst it open. After passing several rooms filled with lumber, I came to a flight of steps which led to a vast cellar filled with barrels, which I rightly judged contained gunpowder. The place was occupied by about twenty pirates. One was emptying a barrel of its explosive contents, whilst several others were forming a train, which communicated to every barrel in the cellar. Two-men were busy in making touch-paper, others were raising the lid of an immense trap, whilst several others were fixing ropes, as though they intended letting themselves down into the sea. I stood concealed in a corner nearly ten minutes, watching their actions. Every thing was ready, and they descended. What fear took possession of me; I expected every moment the place would be blown up. Had I been collected, I might have prevented the catastrophe by cutting off the train, but it never entered my head; all I had in view was my escape. I ran to the trap, which the pirates had just descended, and found a flight of irregular steps, formed by pieces of craggy rock, these I cautiously descended; holding tight with my hands to prevent my falling. Possessed by an indescribable dread, mixed with that sort of resolution inspired by despair, I proceeded downwards, catching hold of

the projecting pieces of rock, and found a kind of path, which widened as I went on. I felt the fresh air blow towards me, and thought I heard the roaring of the sea. This encouraged me; and I proceeded with fresh ardour, when I suddenly was deprived of my senses by an indescribable burst; and I had scarcely recovered, when a second tremendous crash astounded me, and I judged the building had blown up, and fallen in. I was now so overcome with fatigue and fright that I could scarcely crawl; but summoning up every faculty, with great exertion, I reached the end of the subterranean cavity; and found myself by the side of a rugged rock open to the sea. I climbed up the cliff, and, on looking around, by the aid of the moon, saw the once vast edifice a heap of ruins. The volumes of smoke which arose blackened the atmosphere, and prevented me from making as many observations as I could have desired. I directed my way towards a forest I saw before me, intending to procure a night's lodging in the sheltering foliage of one of the trees. I seated myself on the branch of a towering tree, and had hardly gained this position, before I heard some beast of prey rushing through the crackling bushes beneath me, like a storm that hisses through the waving forest. I blessed heaven at the thoughts of my security; and, being fatigued beyond measure, I folded my arms, and fell asleep.

On awaking in the morning, I dropped to the ground, and directed my course towards the sea-coast; and, after wandering for two days, and encountering numerous perils and dangers, I had the inexpressible gratification of beholding a European ship some leagues distant. I saw with pleasure a boat lowered, which was filled with sailors and empty barrels, and make towards the shore. The men were commissioned to land at the nearest coast, and procure water, if there was any to be discovered; but scarcely had they left their boat, and placed their feet on terra firma, when, on discovering they were English sailors, I presented myself before them.

The reader I make no doubt, is as well acquainted with what ensued as I myself; for who could feel at a loss for concluding how British sailors would in such an instance have displayed their generosity? Suffice it to

say, I found myself by midnight in a comfortable hammock; and, in less than three months, in a place ten thousand times more comfortable; in fact, I was then in London; and in a fortnight after that, was in a place called a bookseller's shop, with the manuscript which the reader has been perusing, in my possession. And now, gentle Sir, or Madam, having performed my part on this paper stage of a pamphlet, permit me to make my bow, and assure you at the same time, that whenever any more strange adventures happen to me, I shall most certainly dramatize them, as in the present instance, and get them up, with new scenery, dresses, and decorations, for the Pamphlet Theatre.

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